

In re Patent Application of:
CHAPMAN ET AL.
Serial No. 10/617,065
Filing Date: JULY 10, 2003

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for distributing a public information release authorization (PIRA) form over an intranet, the method comprising:

creating and submitting a PIRA form over the intranet, the PIRA form being submitted by an author to at least one approver via e-mail with a hyperlink to the PIRA form; and

transmitting comments for the PIRA form by the at least one approver via e-mail.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method further comprising:

selecting a first level of approvers from among the plurality of users for reviewing the PIRA form; and

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to the first level of approvers, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the first level of approvers comprises at least one of a manager, a program manager and a technical peer reviewer.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the first level of approvers is selected by the author.

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5. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising creating a profile of the PIRA form in response to accessing associated personnel information of the author; and wherein at least one of the first level of approvers is selected based upon the created profile.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the first level of approvers reviews the PIRA form concurrently.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising:

selecting a second level of approvers from among the plurality of users for reviewing the PIRA form; and

transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the second level of approvers, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7 wherein the second level of approvers comprises at least one of a security administrator, a system administrator, a contracts administrator, a communications administrator, an export/import administrator and a legal administrator.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 7 wherein the second level of approvers is selected by a system administrator.

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10. (Original) A method according to Claim 7 wherein each of the second level of approvers reviews the PIRA form sequentially.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 10 further comprising stopping approval of the PIRA when one of the second level of approvers rejects the PIRA form.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the creating comprises including an attachment to the PIRA form.

13. (Currently Amended) An intranet for distributing a public information release authorization (PIRA) form comprising:
at least one server for implementing the PIRA process;
a first user computer cooperating with said at least one server software module for creating and submitting a PIRA form over the intranet, the PIRA form being submitted by an author to at least one approver via e-mail with a hyperlink to the PIRA form; and

a first second user computer cooperating with said at least one server software module for transmitting comments of the PIRA form by the at least one approver via e-mail.

14. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 13 wherein ~~the intranet includes~~ a plurality of users is enrolled in the intranet, ~~therein~~ with each user having associated personnel information stored within said at least one server, ~~within the intranet, the method further comprising: said~~

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first user computer further cooperating with said at least one server for performing the following:

~~a third software module for~~ selecting a first level of approvers from among the plurality of users for reviewing the PIRA form; and

~~a fourth software module for~~ transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to the first level of approvers, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form.

15. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 13 wherein the first level of approvers comprises at least one of a manager, a program manager and a technical peer reviewer.

16. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 13 wherein the first level of approvers is selected by the author.

17. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 14 wherein said first user computer further cooperates with said at least one server further comprising a fifth software module for creating a profile of the PIRA form in response to accessing associated personnel information of the author; and wherein at least one of the first level of approvers is selected based upon the created profile.

18. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 13 wherein the first level of approvers reviews the PIRA form concurrently.

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19. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 14 wherein said first user computer further cooperates with said at least one server for performing the following: further comprising-

~~a sixth software module for selecting a second level of approvers from among the plurality of users for reviewing the PIRA form; and~~

~~a seventh software module for transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the second level of approvers, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form.~~

20. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 19 wherein the second level of approvers comprises at least one of a security administrator, a system administrator, a contracts administrator, a communications administrator, an export/import administrator and a legal administrator.

21. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 19 wherein the second level of approvers is selected by a system administrator.

22. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 19 wherein each of the second level of approvers reviews the PIRA form sequentially.

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23. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 19 wherein said first user computer further cooperates with said at least one server further comprising an eighth software module for stopping approval of the PIRA when one of the second level of approvers rejects the PIRA form.

24. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 13 wherein ~~the first software module for~~ creating and submitting the PIRA form comprises including an attachment to the PIRA form.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing user computers coupled to at least one server and defining an intranet therewith to perform steps stored thereon a data structure, the computer-readable medium comprising:

~~a first data field containing data representing a public information release authorization (PIRA) form created by an author, the PIRA form to be submitted over an internet;~~

~~a second data field containing data representing an e-mail message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form, the e-mail message to be transmitted to at least one approver via e-mail;~~
and

~~a third data field containing data representing comments of the at least one approver, the comments to be transmitted via e-mail.~~

creating and submitting a public information release authorization (PIRA) form over the intranet using a first one of

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the user computers cooperating with the at least one server, the PIRA form being submitted by an author to at least one approver via e-mail with a hyperlink to the PIRA form; and
transmitting comments for the PIRA form by the at least one approver via e-mail using a second one of the user computers cooperating with the at least one server.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25 wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the computer-readable medium further having computer-executable instructions for causing the first one of the user computers to perform the following steps: comprising:

~~a fourth data field containing data for selecting a first level of approvers from among the plurality of users for reviewing the PIRA form; and~~

~~a fifth data field containing data for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to the first level of approvers, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form.~~

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25 wherein the first level of approvers comprises at least one of a manager, a program manager and a technical peer reviewer.

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28. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25 wherein the first level of approvers is selected by the author.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 26 further having computer-executable instructions for causing the first one of the user computers to ~~comprising a fifth data field for creating~~ create a profile of the PIRA form in response to accessing associated personnel information of the author; and wherein at least one of the first level of approvers is selected based upon the created profile.

30. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25 wherein the first level of approvers reviews the PIRA form concurrently.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 26 further having computer-executable instructions for causing the first one of the user computers to perform the following steps: comprising,

~~a sixth data field for~~ selecting a second level of approvers from among the plurality of users for reviewing the PIRA form; and

~~a seventh data field for~~ transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the second level of approvers, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the PIRA form.

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32. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 31 wherein the second level of approvers comprises at least one of a security administrator, a system administrator, a contracts administrator, a communications administrator, an export/import administrator and a legal administrator.

33. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 31 wherein the second level of approvers is selected by a system administrator.

34. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 31 wherein each of the second level of approvers review the PIRA form sequentially.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 31 further having computer-executable instructions for causing the first one of the user computers to comprising an eighth data field for stopping stop approval of the PIRA when one of the second level of approvers rejects the PIRA form.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25 wherein ~~the first data field for~~ creating and submitting the PIRA form comprises including an attachment to the PIRA form.